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BOOK REVIEWS

Business and Manufacturing Corporations Under Missouri Laws. By John H. Sears, of the St. Louis Bar. Counselors Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1910. pp. XXIV, 491.

As its title indicates, the present volume is one chiefly of local interest. It deals with the corporation law of Missouri almost exclusively. That the field is narrow, however, does not mean that Mr. Sears' work is not valuable. Corporation law being largely statutory and, therefore, very different in the various states, almost demands, if anything like accuracy is to be expected, that the law of each state be treated separately. In this way only can the subject be dealt with exhaustively, and at the same time with definiteness and certainty. A study of the corporation law of Missouri, moreover, is more valuable than would be that of many of the other states, because of the fact that Missouri is a typical example of those states whose incorporation acts are of the stricter sort, and also because of the fact that the Missouri statute is almost identical with the model corporation law reported by the committee on uniform incorporation to the American Bar Association in 1909.

Having chosen this limited field, Mr. Sears seems to have covered it completely and in detail. He commences with a chapter on the foundations of corporation law and then treats of the promotion of a company, the procedure for incorporation, the charter and by-laws and their interpretation as applied to a variety of matters. He devotes several chapters to stockholders, directors, officers and employees and several more to the conduct of the ordinary business of a corporation. He also finds room to treat in detail of such matters as consolidation, rights of creditors, corporate liabilities, trusts and combinations, receivers, reorganization, etc., etc. In the appendix to the work there is a valuable collection of 128 forms and a table of statutory citations beside the usual table of cases.

Mr. Sears is a former editor of the YALE LAW JOURNAL, and for that reason we feel privileged to extend to him most hearty congratulations on the admirable way in which he has done his

work. The exhaustiveness of it should make the book of incalculable value to Missouri lawyers. The fluent style in which it is written should make it a very readable volume for any lawyer interested in corporation law, no matter where he is situated.

E. A. I.

The Early Courts of Pennsylvania. By William H. Lord, of the Philadelphia Bar. Fellow in the Law School of the University of Pensylvania. pp. vii, 287. Boston. Boston Book Co., 1910.

This "story of the obscure beginning" of American Law in one of the most important commonwealths which have gradually grown out of the thirteen colonies, is rather a contribution to legal history and archaeology than to the study of the living law itself. The author has made an exhaustive study of early records and documents, many of which have never appeared in print, and the result is a valuable contribution to comparative studies of colonial records. This field has been unduly neglected in the various states. And it is only through such works as these, laboriously made in each quarter of the country, that the final complete history of the development of our American legal systems will become possible.

The book is filled with the quaint and curious. Archaic forms of punishment, the ducking-stool, the whipping post, and even selling into slavery are chronicled. Some of the laws remind us of the blue laws of the Puritans, notably the Sunday and anti-swearing laws. Our prohibition friends would not rejoice to know that in early Pennsylvania days each keeper of an ordinary was required by law to keep on hand a certain quantity of beer and ale. And it is interesting to note that many of the reforms in judicial procedure which are being urged upon us to-day, such as a majority verdict in civil causes, and compulsory arbitration for minor disputes, at different early times were the law in the Quaker State.

Pennsylvania law shows the influence of Swedish, Dutch and English systems of jurisprudence, and the amalgamation of these differing systems makes an interesting study. The book as a whole is of great interest to all students of the history of the law. It is a pity that this interest is marred by an undue number of misprints and careless proofreading, and a haphazard arrangement of the chapters.

C. R. W.